DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 451 264 UD 034 031

AUTHOR	Therrien, Melissa; Ramirez, Roberto R.
TITLE	The Hispanic Population in the United States: Population Characteristics. Current Population Reports.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of the Census (DOC), Washington, DC. Economics and Statistics Administration.
REPORT NO	P20-535
PUB DATE	2001-03-00
NOTE	10p.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Tel: 301-457-2422; Email: pop@census.gov; Web site: http://www.census.gov.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Age Groups; Census Figures; Educational Attainment; Employment Patterns; Family Size; Geographic Distribution; *Hispanic Americans; Poverty; Salaries; Tables (Data); Urban Areas

ABSTRACT

This report describes the United States' Hispanic population in 2000, profiling demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as geographic distribution, age, educational attainment, earnings, and poverty status. These characteristics are compared with those of non-Hispanic whites, and because Hispanics are a heterogeneous group, variability within the Hispanic group is also discussed. Findings are based on data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the March 2000 Current Population Survey. Hispanics reported that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central American, or South American. Hispanics may be of any race. Approximately one in eight people in the United States is Hispanic in origin. Hispanics are more geographically concentrated than non-Hispanic whites and are more likely to live inside central cities of metropolitan areas. One in four foreign-born Hispanics is a naturalized citizen. Hispanics live in family homes that are larger than those of non-Hispanic whites. More than two in five Hispanics have not graduated from high school, and educational attainment varies. Hispanics are much more likely than non-Hispanic whites to be unemployed and to be impoverished. Hispanic workers earn less than non-Hispanic whites, and the groups have different occupational distributions. (SM)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 451 264

THE HISPANIC POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 2000

Current Population Reports P20-535
March 2001

Melissa Therrien and Roberto R. Ramirez

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau

UD034031

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Hispanic Population in the United States

Population Characteristics

March 2000

Issued March 2001

P20-535

Current Population Reports

By Melissa Therrien and Roberto R. Ramirez

This report describes the Hispanic population in the United States in 2000, providing a profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, such as geographic distribution, age, educational attainment, earnings, and poverty status. These characteristics are compared with those of the non-Hispanic White population, and because Hispanics are a heterogenous group, variability within the Hispanic population is also discussed.[1] The findings are based on data collected by the Census Bureau in the March 2000 Current Population Survey (CPS).[2]

Hispanics reported that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Latino origin on the CPS questionnaire.[3] Hispanics may be of any race.

POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Approximately one in eight people in the United States is of Hispanic origin.

In 2000, 32.8 million Latinos resided in the United States, representing 12.0 percent of the total U.S. population.[4] As shown in Figure 1, among the Hispanic population, 66.1 percent were of Mexican origin, 14.5 percent were Central and South American, 9.0 percent were Puerto Rican, 4.0 percent were Cuban, and the remaining 6.4 percent were of other Hispanic origins.

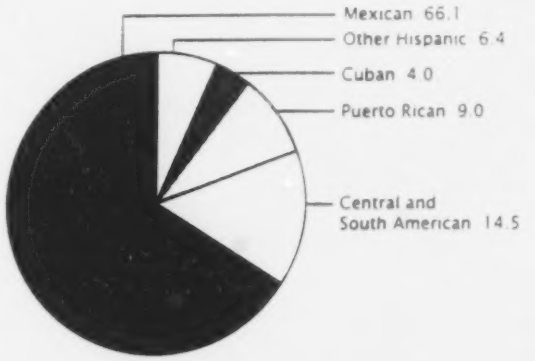
[4]Puerto Rico is not included in the Current Population Survey.

[1]For similar comparisons between the foreign-born and native populations in the United States, see Lisa Lollock, 2000, *The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports, P20-534, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

[2]The population universe for the March 2000 CPS is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces.

[3]The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably in this report to reflect the new terminology in the standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 that are to be implemented by January 1, 2003. For more information, please refer to "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," *Federal Register*, Vol. 62, No. 280, October 30, 1997, pp. 58,782-58,790. In addition, being of a particular origin is determined by the respondent. For example, people who indicate that they are of Mexican origin may be either born in Mexico or of Mexican heritage.

Figure 1.
Hispanics by Origin: 2000
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000

Demographic Programs

U C N U B R A

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

compared with 23.5 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Relatively few Latinos were age 65 and older (5.3 percent) compared with non-Hispanic Whites (14.0 percent). In addition, a smaller proportion of Hispanics were 18 to 64 (59.0 percent) than of non-Hispanic Whites (62.4 percent, see Figure 3). Whereas 32.4 percent of the Hispanic population were ages 25 to 44, 29.5 percent of the non-Hispanic White population was within this age group. Among Hispanics, 14.5 percent were 45 to 64, while 24.0 percent of non-Hispanic Whites were of these ages (see Figure 4).

Among Latinos, the Mexican origin population had the highest proportion less than 18 (38.4 percent) compared with the Cuban origin population, who had the lowest proportion (19.2 percent). The proportion of elderly (those 65 and older) ranged from approximately 4.5 percent for both Mexicans and Central and South Americans to 21.0 percent for Cubans.

One in four foreign-born Hispanics is a naturalized citizen.

In 2000, 39.1 percent (or 12.8 million) of the Hispanic population in the United States was foreign born. Of this group, 43.0 percent entered the United States in the 1990s, another 29.7 percent came in the 1980s, and the remainder (27.3 percent) entered before 1980.

Although 74.2 percent of those who entered before 1970 had obtained citizenship by 2000, only 23.9 percent of those who entered between 1980 and 1989 and 6.7 percent of those who entered between 1990 and 2000 had become citizens (see Figure 5).

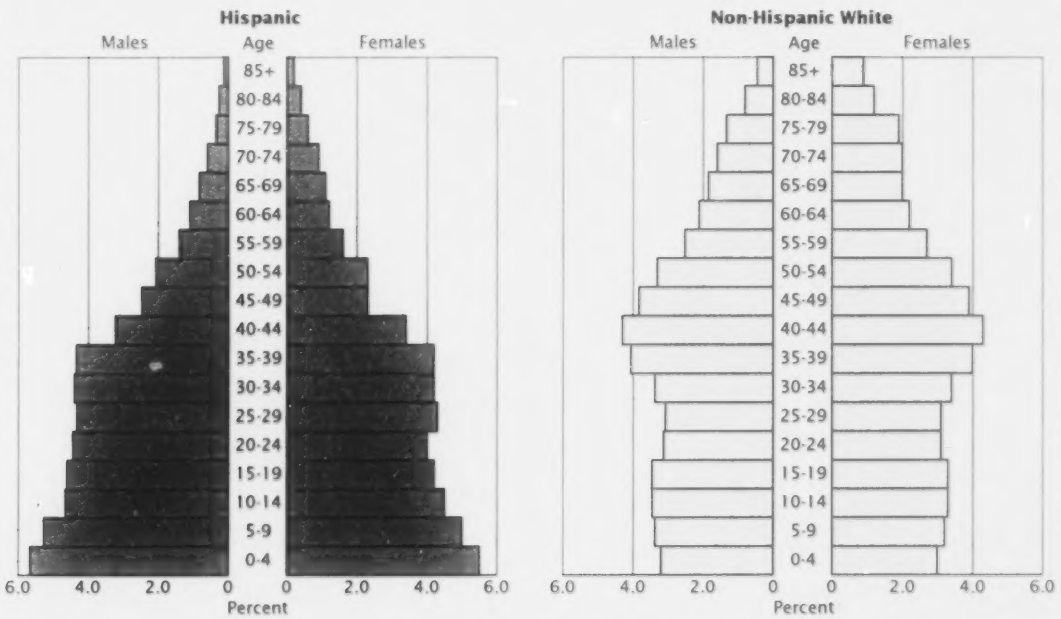
FAMILY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND MARITAL STATUS

Hispanics live in family households that are larger than those of non-Hispanic Whites.

In 2000, 30.6 percent of family households in which a Hispanic person was the householder consisted of five or more people.[7] In contrast, only 11.8 percent of

[7]Family households consist of two or more people, at least one of whom is related to the householder (the person who owns or rents the housing unit). Hispanic family households have a Hispanic householder.

Figure 4.
Population by Hispanic Origin, Age, and Sex: 2000
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of the Hispanic (non-Hispanic White) population who were within the specified age group and of the specified sex.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Hispanics are more geographically concentrated than non-Hispanic Whites.

Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to reside in the West and less likely to live in the Northeast and the Midwest.[5] Figure 2 shows that the regional distribution of the Hispanic population in 2000 ranged from 44.7 percent in the West to 7.9 percent in the Midwest, while the distribution of non-Hispanic Whites ranged from 32.8 percent in the South to 19.8 percent in the West.

Latinos of Mexican origin were more likely to live in the West (56.8 percent) and South (32.6 percent), Puerto Ricans were most likely to live in the Northeast (63.9 percent), and Cubans were highly concentrated in the South (80.1 percent). Central and South Americans were concentrated in three of the four regions: the Northeast (32.3 percent), the South (34.6 percent), and the West (28.2 percent).

Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live inside central cities of metropolitan areas.

Nearly half of all Hispanics lived in a central city within a metropolitan area (46.4 percent) compared with slightly more than one-fifth of non-Hispanic Whites (21.2 percent). In 2000, 45.1 percent of Hispanics lived outside central cities but within a metropolitan area compared with 56.2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. The percentage of Hispanics living in nonmetropolitan areas (8.5 percent) was much smaller than the percentage of non-Hispanic Whites (22.5 percent). Among Latino groups, Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics were most likely to live in a central city within a metropolitan area (61.2 percent and 56.5 percent, respectively) while Cubans were most likely to live outside the central city within a metropolitan area (76.0 percent).[6]

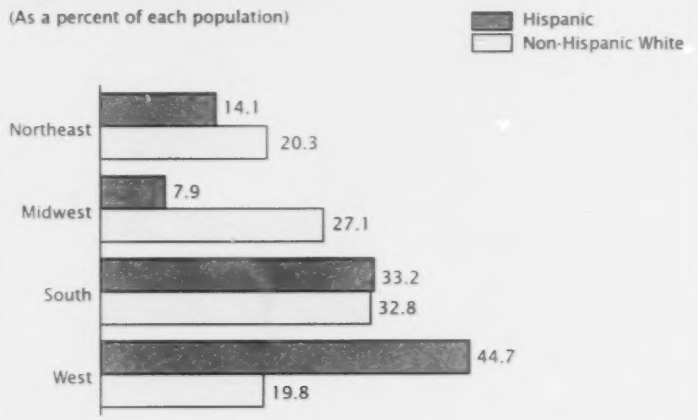
Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be less than 18 years old.

In 2000, 35.7 percent of Hispanics were less than 18 years of age,

[5]The four regions of the United States for which data are presented in this report are as follows: **Northeast**: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; **Midwest**: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; **South**: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and **West**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

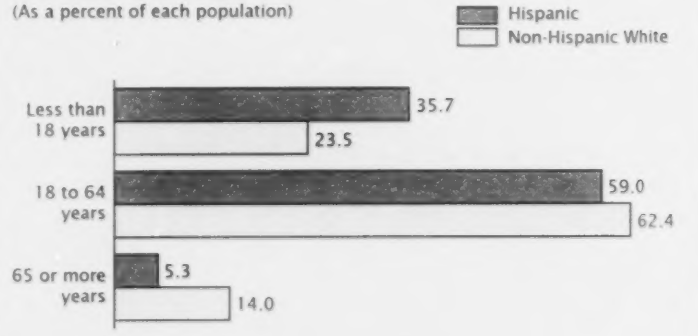
[6]The proportions for Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics are not significantly different.

Figure 2.
Population by Hispanic Origin and Region of Residence: 2000
(As a percent of each population)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 3.
Population by Hispanic Origin and Age Group: 2000
(As a percent of each population)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

non-Hispanic White family households were this large. Among Hispanic family households, Mexican households were most likely to have five or more people (35.5 percent), as shown in Figure 6.

Family households with only two people represented 21.7 percent of Hispanic family households compared with 46.0 percent of non-Hispanic White family households. Among Hispanic households, Cuban family households were most likely to have only two people (41.3 percent).

For the population aged 15 years and older, Hispanics were more likely to have never been married than non-Hispanic Whites (33.2 percent compared with 24.5 percent). Among Latinos, Cubans were least likely to have never been married (20.4 percent).[8]

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

More than two in five Hispanics have not graduated from high school.

The Hispanic population age 25 and older was less likely to have at least graduated from high school than non-Hispanic Whites (57.0 percent and 88.4 percent, respectively). In addition, more than one-quarter of Hispanics had less than a ninth-grade education (27.3 percent) compared with only 4.2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. The proportion with a bachelor's degree or more was much lower for Hispanics (10.6 percent) than for non-Hispanic Whites (28.1 percent, see Figure 7).

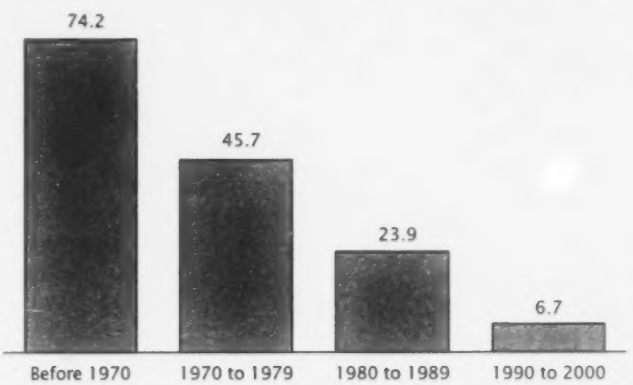
[8]There is no significant difference between the percent never married for Puerto Ricans and Mexicans, Central and South Americans, or other Hispanics.

Educational attainment varies among Latinos.

Among Hispanics, Cubans and other Hispanics were most likely to have graduated from high school (73.0 percent and 71.6 percent, respectively)[9] compared with Mexicans (51.0 percent), as shown in Figure 8. Similarly, the proportion who had attained a bachelor's degree ranged from 23.0 percent for Cubans to 6.9 percent for Mexicans.

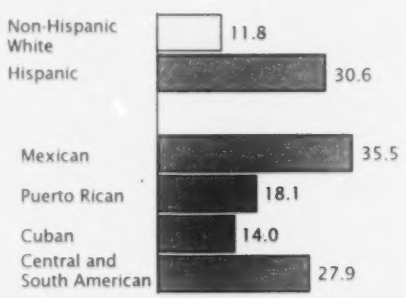
[9]The proportion of Cuban high school graduates does not differ significantly from the proportion of other Hispanic high school graduates.

Figure 5.
U.S. Citizenship of the Foreign-Born Hispanic Population by Year of Entry: 2000
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 6.
Family Households With Five or More People by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2000
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of family households, whose householder was of the specified origin, that consisted of 5 or more people. Data for other Hispanics not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

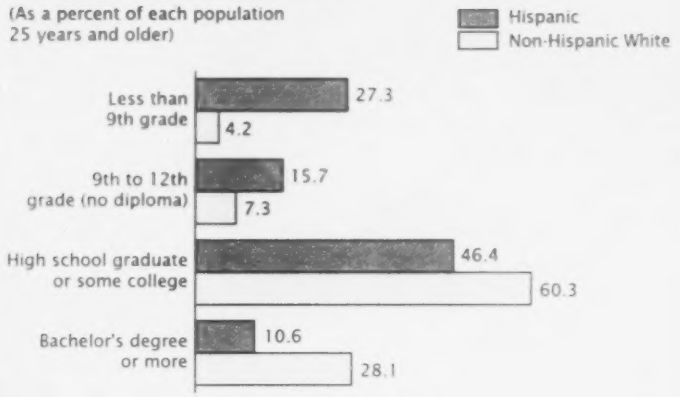
Hispanics are much more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be unemployed.

In March 2000, 6.8 percent of Hispanics in the civilian labor force aged 16 and older were unemployed compared with only 3.4 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.[10] Among Latino groups, 8.1 percent of Puerto Ricans, 7.0 percent of Mexicans, 5.8 percent of Cubans, 5.1 percent of Central and South Americans, and 7.8 percent of other Hispanics were unemployed.[11]

[10]Civilian labor force data shown in this report reflect characteristics of the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 16 and older for March 2000 and are not adjusted for seasonal changes. Data released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, may not agree entirely with data shown in this report because of differences in methodological procedures and their seasonal adjustment of the data.

Figure 7.
Population by Hispanic Origin and Educational Attainment: 2000

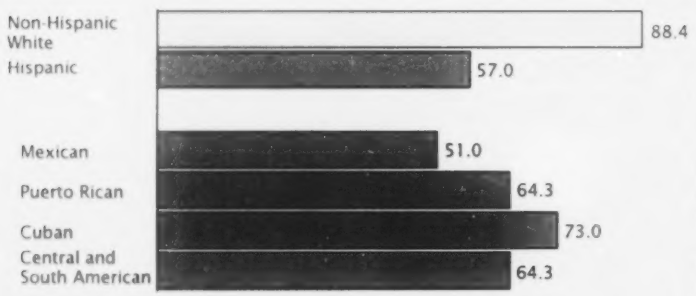
(As a percent of each population 25 years and older)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 8.
Population With at Least a High School Education by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 2000

(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of individuals age 25 and older, of the specified origin, who have at least a high school education. Data for other Hispanics not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites have different occupational distributions.

In 2000, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to work in service occupations (19.4 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively).[12] In addition, Hispanics were almost twice as likely to be employed as operators and laborers than non-Hispanic Whites (22.0 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively). Conversely, only 14.0 percent of Hispanics were in managerial or professional occupations, compared with 33.2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Among Latino groups, Mexicans were least likely to work in managerial or professional occupations (11.9 percent).

Hispanic workers earn less than non-Hispanic White workers.

Among full-time, year-round workers in 1999, 23.3 percent of Hispanics and 49.3 percent of non-Hispanic Whites earned $35,000 or more.[13]

[11]Among all the detailed Hispanic origin groups examined here, statistically significant differences in unemployment rates occur only twice: between Central and South Americans and Mexicans and between Central and South Americans and Puerto Ricans.

[12]The occupational classification system used here and by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the one used in the 1990 Census of Population and is based largely on the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

[13]Data on earnings and poverty in this report refer to the calendar year before the survey. In this case, earnings information collected in March 2000 refer to calendar year 1999.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Among Latino full-time, year-round workers, Mexicans had the lowest proportion earning $35,000 or more (see Figure 9).

In addition, the proportion of workers making $50,000 or more was 9.6 percent of Hispanics compared with 27.4 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Mexicans also had the lowest proportion of workers earning $50,000 or more with 7.7 percent.

Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live in poverty.

In 1999, 22.8 percent of Hispanics were living in poverty, compared with 7.7 percent of non-Hispanic Whites (see Figure 10).[14] Hispanics represented 12.0 percent of the total population but constituted 23.1 percent of the population living in poverty. In addition, Hispanic children under 18 were much more likely than non-Hispanic White children to be living in poverty (30.3 percent versus 9.4 percent). Hispanic children represented 16.2 percent of all children in the United States but constituted 29.0 percent of all children in poverty.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

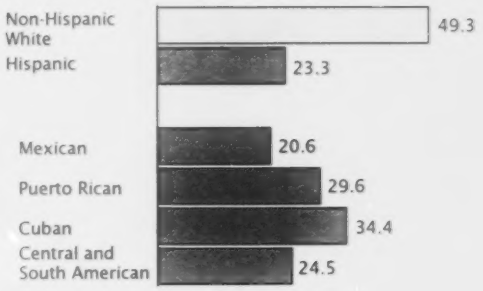
Estimates in this report come from data obtained in March 2000 by the CPS. The Census Bureau conducts the CPS every month, although this report uses only data from the March survey.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and meet the Census Bureau's standards for statistical significance. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process—including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, reviews of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports.

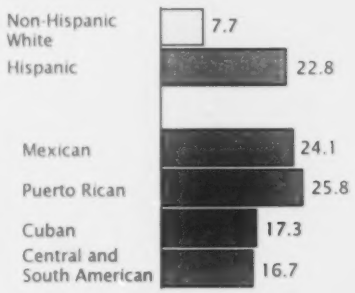
[14]Poverty status is determined through a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition (see Dalaker, Joseph, 2000, *Poverty in the United States: 1999*, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P20-207; or *www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html*).

Figure 9.
Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Annual Earnings $35,000 or More by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 1999
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of individuals, of the specified origin, who earned more than $35,000 for full-time, year-round work. Data for other Hispanics not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 10.
People Living Below the Poverty Level by Detailed Hispanic Origin: 1999
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of individuals, of the specified origin, who were living in poverty. Data for other Hispanics not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Current Population Survey employs ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but how it affects different variables in the survey is not precisely known. Moreover, biases may also be present when people who are missed in the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the categories used in weighting (age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin). All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, contact Brandi York of the Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at: *dsmd_s&a@census.gov.*

MORE INFORMATION

Twenty-one detailed tables from the March 2000 CPS are available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's Web site *(www.census.gov)*. Once on the site, click on "H," then select "Hispanic: People." Choose "CPS March 2000" and click on "Data Tables." Data from previous years (1994-99) are also available on this Web site.

To receive a paper version of these tables, send your request for "PPL-136, Profile of the Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000," along with a check or money order in the amount of $26.50, payable to "Commerce-Census-88-00-9010," to U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call the Statistical Information Office at 301-457-2422. A copy of these tables will be made available to any existing Current Population Report P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report.

CONTACT

Statistical Information Office:
pop@census.gov
301-457-2422

Roberto R. Ramirez: Ethnic and Hispanic Statistics Branch
roberto.r.ramirez@census.gov
301-457-2403

USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

Chief, Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

or send e-mail to: *pop@census.gov*

SUGGESTED CITATION

Therrien, Melissa and Roberto R. Ramirez, 2000, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports, P20-535, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Washington, DC 20233

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use $300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58